

Message Text

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14
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 IO-13 /069 W

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R 240909Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9343
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RP, VN
SUBJECT: SRV MAY PARTICIPATE IN SEAFDEC PROGRAM

1. ACCORDING ARTICLE IN AUG. 20 MANILA "DAILY EXPRESS",
SRV WILL SEND FIVE PARTICPANTS TO REGIONAL TRAINING
PROGRAM ON AQUACULTURE TO BE SPONSORED BY SOUTHEAST
ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (SEAFDEC) AT ITS
CENTER NEAR ILOILO, PHILIPPINES. THIS WAS CONFIRMED
BY SRV VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LE DUY TRINH AFTER
INSPECTION TOUR OF SEAFDEC FACILITIES BY VIETNAMESE
DELEGATES TO RECENT MANILA FAO MEETING, ACCORDING
"EXPRESS".

2. JAPANESE EMBOFF SAID HIS EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING
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TO CONFIRM STORY. HE OBSERVED THAT ALTOUGH SEAFDEC

IS MULTILATERAL, ITS FILIPINO DIRECTOR (WHO PRESUMABLY INVITED VIETNAMESE TO PARTICIPATE) TENDS TO BEHAVE AS IF IT WERE AT PHILIPPINE ORGANIZATION. JAPANESE POSITION IS THAT INVITATION SHOULD NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH OTHER SEAFDEC PARTICIPANTS (INCLUDING JAPANESE) WHICH CLEARLY DID NOT TAKE PLACE.

3. COMMENT: SEAFDEC IS A PROJECT OF THE JAPANESE-SPONSORED MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA (SEAMEC). GVN WAS A CONFERENCE MEMBER (AS ARE ASEAN STATES PLUS LAOS, CAMBODIA, BURMA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. U.S. IS NOT MEMBER ALTHOUGH SOME USAID MONEY HAS GONE TO SEAMEC PROJECT INCLUDING SEAFDEC). GVN WAS ALSO SIGNATORY TO AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING SEAFDEC WHICH HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SEAMEC ACTIVITIES. CONFERENCE ITSELF HAS BEEN MORIBUND IN WAKE OF INDOCHINA EVENTS AND ELEVENTH SESSION, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR SINGAPORE LAST FALL, HAS NEVER BEEN HELD. ACCORDING JAPANESE EMBOFF THERE ARE SOME INDIVIDUALS IN JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE WHO FAVOR ATTEMPTING TO REVIVE SEAMEC AS A VEHICLE FOR JAPAN-SEASIA-VIETNAM DIALOGUE BUT HIS AMBASSADOR (SAWAKI) IS CONVINCED THAT CONFERENCE IS A "DEAD LETTER". IN ANY EVENT, SRV WOULD EVIDENTLY LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN SEAFDEC SUBSIDIARY FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL REASONS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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